

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT SNB-PS Units in As Area

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

File 97

1. Headquarters for border guard (PS) units in Prague XIII is known as Unit No. 9600, commanded by SNB Major Duda who took charge after the former commander, Lt. Col. Jiri Kovar, was arrested during March 1950 when he attempted to escape from Czechoslovakia. Kovar is now being held in an unknown place. Adjutant of the unit is SNB Lt. Vacha. Commander of the Auxiliary Company of Unit No. 9600 is SNB Sgt. Major Novak.
2. The PS battalion at Karlovy Vary, Unit No. 8194, is commanded by 1st Lt. Vlcek, his deputy being Sgt. Major Lang. SNB Sgt. Major Plesmid is Enlightenment Officer, the position formerly held by SNB Sgt. Vitek who is now attending a political school. Other officers attached to the Karlovy Vary battalion are SNB Capt. Hrabak and SNB Lt. Horvat.
3. One of the units subordinated to the battalion at Karlovy Vary is the company at As, Unit No. 5384, commanded by SNB Sgt. Major Hrabec. The following platoons, consisting of 50 to 70 men each, are under the company at As:

Schoenbach (Krasna*-M51/P19)	Commander: Sgt. Major Vejrik
Podhradi* (Kratsreuth - M51/P19)	Commander: SNB Sgt. Major Horn Deputy : SNB Lt. Cervený
Rosbach (Granice* - M51/P19)	Commander: Staff Sgt. Josef Hama
Mokriný (Kassengrub-M51/P18)	Commander: Sgt. Major Efler
Podlesi* (Steinpoehl - M51/P19)	Commander: SNB Staff Sgt. Holik SNB Lt. Henys

4. The following is a detailed description of activities of the PS platoon at Podlesi:
 - a. The following villages are in the area of the Podlesi platoon: Stitary (M1/P19), Studanka* (Thonbrunn - M51/P19), Ujezd (M51/P19), Pastviny** (M1/P19) and the Svrk farm. The border area from stone number five to twelve is under the jurisdiction of the Podlesi platoon also. Checks are made regularly at seven related points (vztazne body) within this area.

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25X1A [REDACTED]

- 2 -

- b. The Podlesi platoon operates two two-man patrols at night and two during the day. In addition a four-man team is posted daily at 1 p.m. for 24 hours' duty in the caserne headquarters. One man is stationed at the telephone and one in the observatory established in the attic of the caserne; two are off duty; they change posts every three hours. From 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. one PS member stands guard outside the caserne.
- c. The area between the border and the As-Rossbach railroad has been designated as a restricted border area for the Podlesi platoon, and special permits are necessary to enter it. These permits, issued by the District National Committee Security Office in As, are of two types, blue and white. The blue is issued for one year and the white for one to three months. Border guards examine identity cards and border permits of persons entering the restricted area. Recent instructions stress the importance of thorough examination of identity cards for forgeries.
- d. For outdoor duty each man is armed with a 7.65 mm pistol and 25 cartridges and a 9 mm submachine gun model CZ 48 with two magazines. Other armament of the Podlesi platoon kept stored for emergencies such as carrying out the ZPU (zajisteni pohranicniho uzemi - securing of border area) is as follows:
 - 3 7.92 mm light machine guns, model 26, each with a reserve barrel, spare parts, oil vessel, loader and box with 12 magazines
 - 150 assault hand grenades, Skoda model 34
 - 5 rocket pistols
 - 2,400 machine-gun cartridges
 - 57 lightening rocket cartridges of different colors.
- e. Other equipment of the platoon includes:
 - 4 containers for carrying warm food
 - 37 pairs of skis
 - 4 binoculars
 - 17 short winter coats (bustata) of German origin. well worn
 - 5 long winter fur coats (rabbit fur) of German origin
 - 5 fur mackintoshes (sheep fur) of German origin
 - 3 long winter fur coats (sheep fur) of German origin
 - 60 liters gasoline
 - 2 liters oil
 - 2 Tudor cars
 - 1 250 cm Jawa motorcycle. Three 125 cm CZ motorcycles have been taken away from the platoon and it is expected that they will be replaced by Jawa motorcycles.
 - 4 police dogs.
- f. The Podlesi platoon uses the state telephone lines as well as field telephones. Field telephone connections link the platoon to the PS company at As whose telephone cover name is "Orel", and to the platoon command at Rossbach.
- g. On 15 June 1950 the construction of wooden observation towers in the border area and additional security measures for all casernes were ordered. Accordingly the commander of the Podlesi platoon had barriers built on all caserne

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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY [REDACTED]

- 3 -

windows, and established an observatory in the caserne attic and machine gun emplacements. Four wooden towers were erected on the edge of the woods within the platoon area. These towers are to be linked by field telephone to each other and to platoon headquarters where the switchboard is to be located.

25X1A

7. The company command at As is equipped with a W/T transmitter of American origin, and plans call for W/T equipment in every platoon. Members of the As company are receiving a one month's training course in radio telegraphy, and BV personnel who have finished a three months' army course are also sent to this school.
8. In accordance with directions from the Ministry of National Defense and the District National Committee, the military unit stationed at As is to destroy by explosives all uninhabited buildings in the border area by the end of November 1950. The laying of mines in the As area was delayed by the arrest of Lt. Col. Kovar but preparations are now being made for such mine laying. On 8 June 1950, Lt. Svoboda and another lieutenant from As surveyed the area of Podlesi for this purpose. Mining of the As district is to be completed by the end of 1950.
9. Passwords in the border area have been changed to numbers. The ZPU plans have not been altered and are still valid.
10. PS units are under strict discipline because of increasing desertions. Members have been warned by the enlightenment officers that escapees to Germany will be apprehended there and imprisoned upon request of Czechoslovakia. It is estimated that about one-third of the Podlesi platoon would desert or refuse to fight in case of war.
11. The following training centers are in operation:
 - Jesenik in former casernes, for SNB junior sergeants
 - Benes Recreational Center(?), for women of the SNB
 - Policka, for SNB
 - Doupov near Karlovy Vary, for SNB
 - Vojtanov near Cheb, a driving school for SNB
12. At the end of August 1950, all PS units finished the "Year of Party Schooling." After examinations a purge will be instituted, and all Communist Party members will receive new party identity cards at the end of the year. Those who fail the tests will serve a candidate term of one or two years.
13. A joint training maneuver of the As military garrison and the As SNB company took place in the region of Stitavy, Podlesi, and Podhradi on 8-16 July 1950. The action was chiefly defensive with only a few counterattacks against enemy centers of resistance. Reservists also participated.
14. In August 1950 all PS units of the As company received the first mimeographed copies of the new Penal Law. All members have been ordered to learn this law thoroughly.

25X1A

* [REDACTED] Comment: These are new names.

** [REDACTED] Comment: Ujezd and Pastviny are probably Stitavsky Vrch and Friedersleuth respectively.

Attachment: Sketches showing areas under jurisdiction of the Podlesi unit.

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